

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in further response to the Office Action dated April 19, 2007, and as a result of the recent conference with the Examiner.

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application.

In the conference with the Examiner, the attorney for the Applicants argued that the cited patents to Shafer, Maesoba, and Oohashi do not teach a connection of an integrated start point that is provided by means of a connection link ring which is arranged on the inside of the produced winding head. However, the Examiner indicated that claim 1 should be clarified to more clearly define the argued differences.

Therefore, in this Supplemental Amendment, claim 1 defines that *"manufacture of the integrated star point takes place simultaneously in the same process step as the offsetting of the wire elements."* Support for this language can be found in the specification on page 3, lines 7-15 and page 12, lines 16-18.

Step d) was amended to define that *"the entire connecting ring (40) is disposed radially inward"* on an inside (41) of a finished winding head (20).

The Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 more clearly defines the above-argued patentable distinctions and that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-13 are allowable over the cited reference combinations. It is respectfully submitted that since the prior art does not suggest the desirability of

the claimed invention, such art cannot establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness as clearly set forth in MPEP section 2143.01.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-13 are patentable over the cited art. The Applicants further request withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims as herein amended.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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